

## Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 BUENOS 01186 211422Z

43

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 W

----- 070712

O R 211340Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4585

INFO DIA WASHDC

S E C R E T BUENOS AIRES 1186

EXDIS

DEPT PASS TO ASSISTANT SECRETARY ROGERS

1. ON FEBRUARY 19, AMBASSADOR HILL, ACCOMPANIED BY THE DEFENSE ATTACHE, ACTING AIR ATTACHE AND THE ACTING CHIEF OF AIR FORCE SECTION USMILGP, CALLED ON NEW ARGENTINE AIR FORCE CINC AGOSTI.

2. AGOSTI, WITHOUT ANY OF HIS AIDES PRESENT, RECEIVED THE AMBASSADOR AND HIS PARTY IN HIS OFFICE IN AIR FORCE HEADQUARTERS. AFTER A BRIEF BUT WARM EXCHANGE OF PLEASANTRIES, AMBASSADOR HILL TURNED CONVERSATION TOWARD SPECIFIC MATTERS OF INTEREST BETWEEN OUR TWO AIR FORCES. THOUGH HE FOLLOWED THE AMBASSADOR'S POINTS CLOSELY, AGOSTI APPEARED NOT TO BE WELL INFORMED ON THE SUBJECT AND EVIDENCED INTEREST IN RAISING OTHER TOPICS.

3. AT WHAT AMBASSADOR AND PARTY BELIEVED TO BE END OF PROTOCOL VISIT, AGOSTI ASKED THAT HE BE ALLOWED TO RAISE ONE QUESTION WITH THE AMBASSADOR. HE ASKED THE AMBASSADOR FOR HIS ASSESSMENT OF THE CURRENT SITUATION IN ARGENTINA. AMBASSADOR HILL SAID HE WOULD BE GLAD TO ANSWER THE QUESTION BUT NOTED THAT TO BE USEFUL, HE WOULD HAVE TO BE FRANK AND CANDID IN REVIEWING THE SITUATION. AGOSTI RESPONDED THIS WAS EXACTLY THE KIND OF ANALYSIS HE WANTED FROM THE AMBASSADOR. AMBASSADOR HILL NOTED THAT THE CURRENT SITUATION IN ARGENTINA WAS A DIFFICULT ONE BUT STRESSED AS HE DID THROUGHOUT THE CONVERSATION THAT SOLUTIONS TO ARGENTINA'S PRESENT DIFFICULTIES COULD ONLY COME FROM THE ARGENTINES THEMSELVES. THE US WISHED TO BE A FRIEND OF ARGENTINA BUT HAD LEARNED THROUGH LONG EXPERIENCE THAT IT DID NEITHER

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 BUENOS 01186 211422Z

ITSELF NOR ARGENTINA ANY GOOD BY INTERVENING IN LOCAL MATTERS.

4. THE AMBASSADOR NOTED THAT THERE WAS A GROWING BELIEF IN THE US THAT THE CONSTITUTIONALIST POLICY OF THE ARMED FORCES MOST RECENTLY EXPRESSED BY GENERAL VIDELA IN GENERAL WAS GIVING WAY TO A FORMING OF RESIGNATION AMONG POLITICAL AND MILITARY LEADERS THAT ONLY A MILITARY INTERVENTION COULD DEAL WITH THE COUNTRY'S PROBLEMS. THE AMBASSADOR NOTED THAT WHETHER OR NOT THIS WAS INDEED THE CASE, IT WAS A MATTER FOR THE ARGENTINES TO DECIDE AMONG THEMSELVES. AT THIS POINT IN TIME, THE AMBASSADOR NOTED, HE IN ALL CANDOR COULD NOT DENY THAT MANY INFLUENTIAL ARGENTINES WERE SEEKING TO DISCERN THE POLICY THE US WOULD ADOPT IF AN INTERVENTION SHOULD INDEED OCCUR. HE NOTED THAT AT PRESENT IT IS THE US GOVERNMENT'S POLICY TO RECOGNIZE A GOVERNMENT THAT EFFECTIVELY EXERCISES POWER AND RESPONSIBLY DISCHARGES ITS INTERNATIONAL OBLIGATIONS.

5. HOWEVER ARGENTINA RESOLVED ITS PROBLEMS, THE AMBASSADOR NOTED THAT HE HAD AN OBLIGATION TO TELL GENERAL AGOSTI THAT THERE WERE TWO PROBLEM AREAS WHICH COULD PERTURB US/ARGENTINE RELATIONS. THE FIRST CONCERNED INVESTMENT PROBLEMS. (AT THIS POINT THE AMBASSADOR BRIEFLY REVIEWED OUR OUTSTANDING INVESTMENT DISPUTES AND SYNTHESIZED FOR AGOSTI THE RELEVANT PORTIONS OF THE US TRADE ACT.) HE FURTHER NOTED THAT THE COUNTRY'S PRESENT ECONOMIC STATE WOULD MAKE IT DIFFICULT FOR THE COUNTRY TO RAISE FUNDS WITHOUT RECOURSE TO THE IMF OR OTHER INTERNATIONAL LENDING INSTITUTIONS. THE SECOND BROAD AREA IN WHICH PROBLEMS COULD ARISE WOULD BE IN THE AREA OF HUMAN RIGHTS, AN ISSUE THAT HAD BECOME SENSITIVE IN THE US.

6. AGOSTI FOLLOWED AMBASSADOR'S ENTIRE EXPOSITION WITH GREAT ATTENTION AND BY MUTUAL AGREEMENT WITH THE AMBASSADOR HAD ALL OF THE AMBASSADOR'S REMARKS TRANSLATED INTO SPANISH TO AVOID CONFUSION EVEN THOUGH AGOSTI SPEAKS ENGLISH. IT WAS CLEAR AS AGOSTI ESCORTED AMBASSADOR HILL TO HIS CAR THAT HIS EXPRESSIONS OF THANKS FOR HIS CANDID APPRAISAL WERE VERY SINCERE ONES.

7. COMMENT: AMBASSADOR HILL TOLD AGOSTI HE WOULD NOT OBJECT IF SUBSTANCE OF CONVERSATION WERE DISCUSSED WITH ARMY AND NAVY CINCS. DOUBTLESS AGOSTI WILL SOON TRANSMIT THIS CONVERSATION TO HIS TWO FELLOW CINCS WHO ALONG WITH AGOSTI HAVE IN RECENT DAYS TRIED THROUGH SEVERAL INDIRECT MEANS TO ASSESS US VIEWS RE THE

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 BUENOS 01186 211422Z

POLITICAL SITUATION. (DETAILED MEMCOM WILL FOLLOW BY SEPTTEL.)  
HILL

SECRET

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** Z  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** MILITARY PERSONNEL, AIR FORCE, POLITICAL SITUATION, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 21 FEB 1976  
**Decaption Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** ShawDG  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1976BUENOS01186  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** DC AND TAGS ADJUSTED PER BUENOS AIRES 1512  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D760065-0825  
**From:** BUENOS AIRES  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1976/newtext/t19760227/aaaaaxrt.tel  
**Line Count:** 109  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION SS  
**Original Classification:** SECRET  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** EXDIS  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** SECRET  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** EXDIS  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** ShawDG  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 19 JUL 2004  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <19 JUL 2004 by KelleyW0>; APPROVED <21 OCT 2004 by ShawDG>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
04 MAY 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** CALL ON AIR FORCE CHIEF AGOSTI  
**TAGS:** PINT, MILI, PFOR, AR, US, (AGOSTI), (HILL)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006